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22 June 1956

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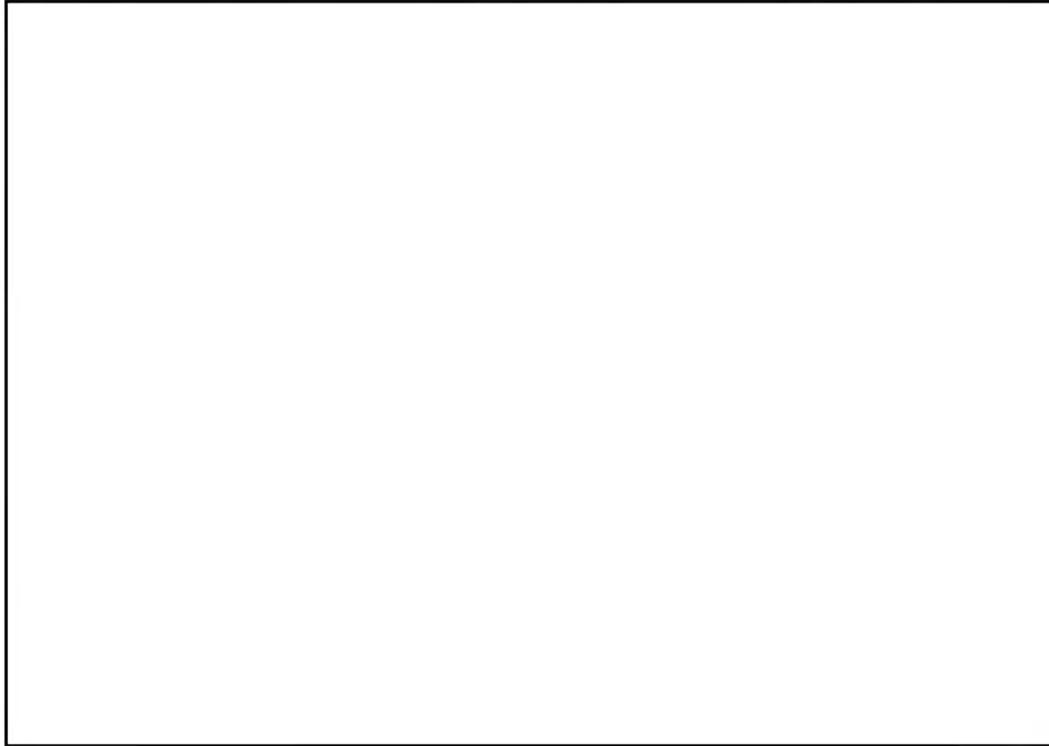
# **CURRENT INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN**

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**OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE  
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY**

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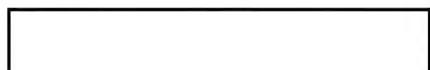
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3. BURMESE COMMUNISTS REPORTEDLY ADOPT  
PEACEFUL TACTICS

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Comment on:

[Redacted]  
[Redacted]  
The Burma Communist Party, which has been fighting a guerrilla war against the Burmese government for eight years, has decided to pursue its objectives through a "moral offensive," according to an Indian press report. The report also alleges that a party spokesman said the first step in implementing the new technique was to be an order for the return of all land, houses and other properties seized by the party.

The military fortunes of the Burmese Communists have been steadily declining for at least five years, while the pro-Communist National United Front made a strong showing in the recent parliamentary elections using "legitimate" methods. Consequently, the insurgent Communists are now more aware than ever that much more is to be gained by peaceful methods than by a continuation of violence. Recent pronouncements by both the Ceylonese and Indian Communist Parties deplored the use of force may also have influenced the Burmese Communists.

Burma's new premier Ba Swe has publicly stated that he intends to suppress rebellion "once and for all." In the past, however, he is reliably reported to have been negotiating with Communist leaders, and his new government may well be tempted to grant lenient terms to obtain a quick settlement of the long-standing rebellion.

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4. CHINESE COMMUNISTS ANNOUNCE "TRIAL"  
PRODUCTION OF JET PLANE ENGINES

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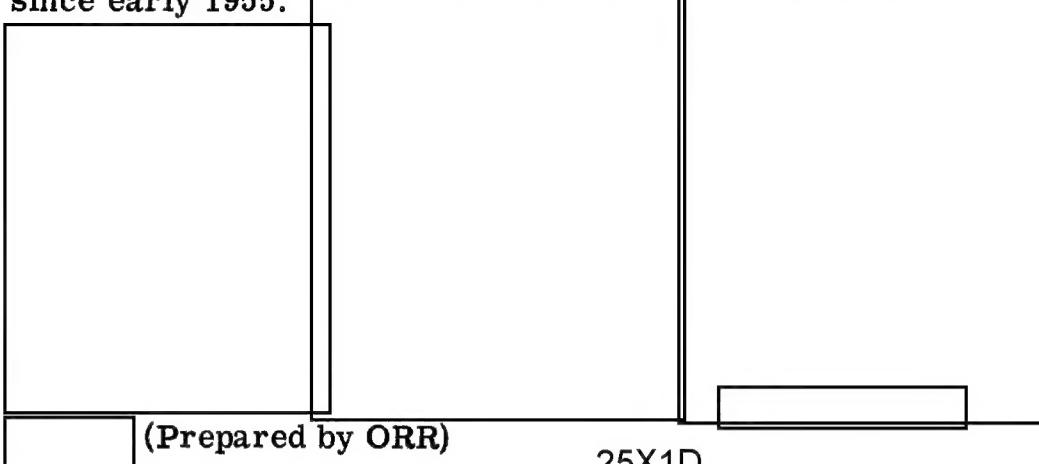
Communist China has succeeded in a "trial" production of jet plane engines, according to a statement to the People's Congress in Peiping on 21 June by the chairman of the National Economic Commission.

Comment

since early 1955.

The USSR has lent considerable assistance to the Chinese aircraft industry

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(Prepared by ORR)

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## 5. VIET MINH ANNOUNCES TROOP REDUCTION

Comment on:

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The North Vietnam regime's announcement on 21 June that its armed forces will be reduced by 80,000 men follows last month's Soviet and North Korean announcements of planned troop reductions. The announcement stated, however, that of this number, 50,000 men had already been demobilized during the two years since the signing of the Geneva agreements.

The Viet Minh is engaged in a recruit-training program and it may be that the demobilized men will be entirely replaced by recruits. Even if the Viet Minh carried out its demobilization plan as announced, its troop strength, would remain double that of South Vietnam. In any event, the receipt of modern arms from the Soviet bloc and the continuing reorganization of the army have significantly increased Viet Minh military capabilities during the past two years.

The troop reduction announcement will probably become part of the Viet Minh propaganda campaign for the "peaceful unification" of Vietnam. Viet Minh willingness to reduce armed forces will be contrasted with the intransigence of the Diem government on such questions as the holding of unification elections scheduled for July 1956 by the Geneva agreements.

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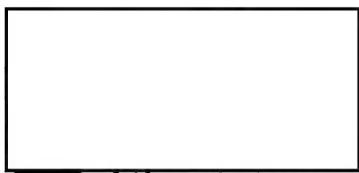
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6. SAUDI ARABIA SEEN TURNING AWAY FROM  
WESTERN TIES

Comment on:

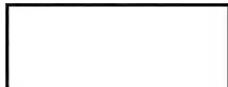
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Ambassador Wadsworth believes that Saudi Arabian policy is all but dominated by Egyptian and anti-foreign nationalist influences opposed to renewal of the Dhahran air base agreement with the United States. King Saud is practically alone in resisting these pressures, but is committed to a program for strengthening Saudi military forces for which he wants additional funds.

Both Wadsworth and the British ambassador are under the impression that top Saudi advisers have presented the United States and Britain with unreasonable demands which they hope will be refused, and that the onus for failure would thus be placed on the Western powers. This hostile attitude, plus the king's genuine desire to build up his army, in Wadsworth's opinion, explains the Saudi "suggestion" that the United States give either \$250,000,000 worth of arms or the money to buy them in return for continued use of the Dhahran field. King Saud has argued that if this "suggestion" is refused, he will be "forced" to turn elsewhere--Egypt and the USSR.



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**THE ARAB-ISRAELI SITUATION**  
(Information as of 1700, 21 June)

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The two previously unidentified installations at Kibbutz Havogrim in the Syrian-Israeli demilitarized zone are now reported by UN Truce Supervision Organization observers to be two concrete pillboxes equipped with firing ports. The chairman of the Israeli-Syrian military armistice commission expressed the opinion that construction other than the pillboxes would be allowed to stand. General Burns, UN truce chief, will decide after further investigation on the question of a violation of the armistice agreement and an order to destroy the pillboxes.

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